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Memorandum to Faculty, Students, and Staff

ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM

Richard S. Takasaki, Chancellor

During the past few weeks, several events have occurred which concern us greatly because they represent acts which cannot continue to be tolerated in a University community. These include:

1. The disturbance and hear-disruption of a scheduled University function, the ROTC awards ceremony.
2. Complaints by faculty that they have been subjected to verbal abuse and pressure tactics involving the Ethnic Studies Program.

The latter case represents an attempt to influence academic decisions through pressure tactics, such as intimidation and threats. Such acts, though admittedly isolated incidents, strike at the very heart of academic freedom and due process and cannot be tolerated.

The ROTC case represents the response of a group, including UHM faculty and students, to actions by the United States with which they disagree. All citizens are guaranteed freedom of speech and the right to protest any governmental action. However, such right does not authorize one to infringe upon the rights of others.

The University Administration endorses the rights of members of the University community to peaceful protest but will not tolerate improper interference with academic procedures and physical interference with legitimate operations of the campus. Consequently, I wish to make it clear that I will take appropriate action, including the use of the University's disciplinary procedures, the full range of available legal remedies, and if necessary, the cooperation of civil authorities, to protect the rights of the members of the University community for an open and orderly environment for the pursuit of University purposes.

This statement reiterates the policy adopted by the Faculty Senate in its 1969 Resolution.